

BOY SCOUTS

Conducted by National Council of the Boy Scouts of America

BOY SCOUT VS. PLAIN BOY

A remarkable illustration of why scout training should be the privilege of every boy is shown in the following story of two groups of boys, one composed of scouts and the other not of scouts, both placed in the same predicament, which called for intelligent action, resourcefulness and grit. The way in which the two groups handled the same situation is significant.

A party of Pueblo, Colorado, scouts last fall were on a hike when they were caught in a blizzard which lasted for forty-eight hours. "It happens that in our part of the country," says the scout executive in relating the incident, "during the fall and early winter blizzards come up without a warning. These scouts were seven miles from town and were accompanied by their troop leader. They immediately sought refuge in an old building and then built a fire. They remained here unharmed throughout the blizzard. During the storm it was humanly impossible to get through the snow to the boys. After the storm abated a searching party was formed and the boys were met on their way home, perfectly safe and sound and scouting was given a great deal of credit for the way the troop leader cared for his troop."

"The blizzard started Saturday afternoon and it was not learned until Sunday afternoon that three more boys who were not scouts had gone on a hike to the same place but had not returned. A neighbor of the boys who was crossing the prairie at that time unexpectedly came upon two of the lads who, half dazed, were wandering aimlessly around and did not recognize him.

"He brought them to the city and late that night when they regained their senses, they asked for their other companion. This revealed the fact that there was another boy left on the prairie. A searching party of 100 scouts was formed and sent out early the next morning. Forming in a straight line with only a short distance between each lad, the scouts searched the prairie for several miles around the spot where the boys claimed they left the other lad.

"The arroyos were filled with snow from four to twelve feet deep and the snow on the level was several inches deep, and when darkness came on the party was forced to return without having recovered the body. The next morning an assistant scoutmaster accompanied by the father of one of the other scouts went to the place where the scouts left off. After searching a short while they found the body of the little boy.

"The two boys who were rescued were asked why they did not build a fire to protect themselves from the cold and they stated that the woods and weeds were wet with snow and so they did not try to build a fire. They explained also that they started to hike for home when the storm started and the little boy nine years old, being unable to hike rapidly, gave out and they tried to carry him. They could not carry him, far so laid him down in the edge of an arroyo while they started towards what they believed to be a farm house nearby. They had mistaken two large trees for a house and when they attempted to find the boy whom they had left in the arroyo they could not find him so they sought refuge in another canyon. The boys said they covered their little companion with some weeds and brush to protect him from the storm. Of course, it is evident that had these boys had scout training they could have built a fire and done other things to assist themselves in the emergency."

SCOUT COURAGE

Caged in a moving elevator in a New York apartment house with an uncontrollable police dog, a frantic maid, and other passengers, Scout Charles Littman showed rare courage. The dog had driven the colored elevator operator out of the car just as he opened the door for the eight floor. The operator jumped but the elevator kept right on toward the roof. Scout Littman knew that unless he could gain control of the elevator quickly a fatal accident would occur. He fought off the frantic dog, seized the lever and stopped the car at the tenth floor. He flung open the door and everyone had marked him as a victim and breaking away from the maid who had not the strength to hold him, the animal chased the scout up two flights of stairs, where Charles climbed through a scuffle hole to safety while the dog was tearing at his legs.

SCOUTS SAVE BABY CALF

While on a recent hike, Troop 1 of Warren, Ariz., heard a moan of distress. The noise seemed to come out of the ground. Upon investigation the scouts found that a calf had fallen into a prospector's excavation and was unable to get out. The troop quickly tied their scout belts together and one boy let himself down into the hole. He tied the belt rope around the calf and soon the other boys had the little animal above ground and free.

CHILDREN OF RICH MAKE TOYS



The miniature automobiles shown in the photograph were all made by the students of the Chicago Latin school, many of whom come from wealthy families. They are on exhibit at the school rooms. The makers of the toys are grouped around the table.

DIFFERENTIAL IS NOT UNDERSTOOD

Purpose of Mechanism Is to Deliver Equal Amount of Power to Each Rear Wheel.

How many automobile owners know what a differential is and of what use it is? A writer asserts that even a large proportion know little, if anything about it.

On all cars with beveled gear drive such as is used on the modern passenger cars, the differential is located in the rear axle and its purpose is to deliver an equal amount of power from the engine to each of the rear drive wheels, regardless of whether one is going faster or slower than the other.

In driving a car in a circle, or any part of a circle, the outer wheel has to travel a longer distance than the one on the inside, with the result that it must turn around a greater number of times. If the rear axle were made of one solid piece connecting the two drive wheels, it would then be impossible for one wheel to turn more rapidly than the other, with the result that one would have to slip when rounding a curve. Thus, the differential permits one wheel to turn faster than the other, thereby keeping either of them from skidding on the ground. At the same time, it is so constructed that it will deliver the same amount of turning or twisting torque on the wheel which is turning the fastest as on the other one.

The construction of the differential is similar in principle to an "evener" which is placed back of a team of horses to divide the load between the two. The evener divides the load between the two so that, regardless of whether one horse is ahead of or to the rear of the other, he will be pulling approximately his share of the load.

In the rear axle of a car is placed the differential which divides the load from the engine, equally between the two drive wheels, the same as the evener divides the load between the two horses. The equalizing action of the differential can be seen by jacking up the rear wheels of the car, then putting the gear lever in low speed. Disengage the emergency brake and turn one of the wheels forward or backward, at the same time watching the effect on the opposite wheel. You will notice that the other wheel turned directly opposite to the way in which the one is going. This peculiar action has led to many interesting stories from new motorists when they have discovered it.

Some Disadvantages. While the differential is a necessity in the average car, it has some disadvantages which have not yet been satisfactorily overcome. In case one wheel drops into a deep mudhole so that the tire cannot get traction, the differential will allow this wheel to turn around and prevents any more power being delivered to the opposite wheel, which might pull the car out were it not for the differential action. Different mechanical devices have been shown at various times to lock two rear wheels together under circumstances of this kind. Due to the complex nature of these devices, however, they have never come into commercial use.

A great many patented types of differentials have been brought out at different times to do away with this spinning of one wheel when in a slippery spot, but so far the standard type of bevel gear differential is used on practically all standard makes of cars, which seems to prove that nothing better has been brought out so far.

BRUSHES CAUSE OF TROUBLE

Good Plan to Keep Close Watch to See if They Are Sparking—Investigate at Once.

Watch the brushes of the generator occasionally to see if they are sparking. This may be due to dirty commutator, rough from burning; high mica, or worn out of true. The brushes may not be properly fitted, they may be stuck in the guide, have a weak spring, or be used up. When sparking is noticed have the trouble investigated immediately, as the commutator will be badly damaged and the battery will not receive the proper charge.

Take Care of Car.

An ounce of attention is worth a pound of overhaul. An oiling a day keeps the repairman away. Look before you back. Spare the oil and spoil the car. A rolling car gathers no crowd. A tool in the kit is worth thousands in the garage. Service is as service does. Fools rush in where experts fear to ride. A little knowledge of electrical systems is a dangerous thing. An ounce of instruction may save a pound of repair. A skid to the wise is sufficient.

THEFT BUREAU URGES OWNER TO KNOW CAR

Many Stolen Machines Could Not Be Identified.

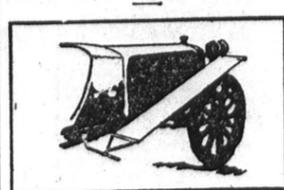
A comprehensive report of auto thefts for the last year just issued by the theft bureau of the Automobile Club of Southern California shows that year by year there are more cars being stolen.

In southern California during 1922 there were nearly \$3,000,000 worth of automobiles taken by thief gangs. It is believed that this tremendous activity is conducted by professional groups of thieves organized on a commercial basis, although a certain per cent of the cars are taken for joy riding purposes.

There were 2,788 machines stolen in Los Angeles alone during 1922, as compared to 2,572 taken in 1921. The figures for 1921 show a material advance over those of 1920, according to the theft bureau report. An investigation of the facts relating to the theft of each automobile shows that in most instances the car was stolen because the owner failed to lock it or even left the keys in the lock. Such carelessness as this encourages the stealing of machines throughout the state, say the authorities. Although the greatest number of cars stolen have been recovered, great difficulty has been experienced in getting them back because the owners could not give proper information to the detectives in identifying their property, even failing to know their own license or engine numbers.

Every motorist should place private identification marks somewhere on his car in a place where the thieves are not likely to find and destroy it. It is hoped to cut down the number of thefts during 1923.

Canvas Fenders Help.



Owners of a small car, who would like to convert it into a snappy and unique form of roadster, may take this hint. Instead of the regular front fenders a canvas guard may be stretched as shown. A couple of coil springs at the lower end will keep the guard from sagging.

AUTOMOBILE NEWS

- Clean out carbon and grind valves.
Change oil every 500 miles of driving.
Have carburetor cleaned and adjusted.
A flashlight included in the equipment of a car is considered extremely valuable for emergency use. It should be kept within reach at all times.

The AMERICAN LEGION

(Copy for This Department Supplied by the American Legion News Service.)

OFFICIAL HOST FOR LEGION

Bowman Elder, Appointed Chairman of the Distinguished Guests' Committee; Represents Owsley.

Bowman Elder, American Legion national executive committee member from Indiana, recently has been appointed chairman of the distinguished guests' committee of the American Legion by Alvin Owsley, national commander of the Legion. This post is said to be one of the most important in the activities of the Legion, as in the capacity of personal representative of the commander of the Legion, it will be Mr. Elder's duty to meet visitors from abroad at their entry to this country, conduct them on their tours and arrange their public appearances—in short to be official host for the Legion. Mr. Elder's wide acquaintance in the United States and his ability as a "mixer" make him especially fitted for a position of trust of this kind.



The new chairman was born in Indianapolis in 1888 and was educated in Chestnut Hill academy at Chestnut Hill, Pa., and at the University of Pennsylvania, from where he was graduated. In his home town, Indianapolis, he is prominent in local affairs, but especially in athletics and in American Legion work. He is a director of the University club of Indianapolis, Dramatic club, Boys' Club association, Indianapolis Telephone company and the Indianapolis real estate board. He also is a member of the Zeta Psi fraternity, Contemporary club, Boomer Athletic club, Indianapolis Country club, Union League and the Indianapolis Athletic club.

Bowman Elder was commissioned a first lieutenant in the coast artillery at the Second officers' training camp in 1917 and now holds the rank of major in the Coast Artillery Reserve corps. His military service included duty with the A. E. F. in the Seventy-first field artillery from July 30, 1918, to February 22, 1919.

TO URGE BETTER MEMORIALS

Fitting and Enduring Monuments to Receive Attention of Committee Headed by Francis Robinson.

That the memorials erected in the United States to those who served in the World War shall be both fitting and enduring, architecture and environment are the first consideration of the committee on memorials of the national organization of the American Legion.

This committee is headed by Francis A. Robinson of Des Moines, Ia., a landscape architect whose work in city planning gave him the position of instructor in his line at the A. E. F. Art Training school in Paris, in 1919.

Mr. Robinson was born January 3, 1887, and is a graduate of Dartmouth college and Harvard university. He enlisted as a private in the 313th Engineers, 88th division, in July, 1918, and was in the Meuse-Argonne offensive. During his service he was promoted to second lieutenant and is now division camouflage officer with the 88th division, holding the rank of captain.

The Memorials committee will study all questions of the erection of memorials within the boundaries of the United States and make available the best architectural and artistic advice for the use of members of the Legion. This information, together with other data on the general question of memorials will be prepared in pamphlet form for the use of Legion posts throughout the country, so that each community may make use of the experience of the committee in the planning and erection of such projects as may be undertaken.

Easily Explained. Whenever the Rev'ren Tobias Skiller called on Aunt Sally, it was her custom to place a large plate of gingerbread before him and then ply him with what she called "religious 'spoundin's'."

"Whaffo do de Lawd sen epidemics unto de land?" she asked him one day. "Sometimes folkses gits so bad dey must be removed, wh'upon de comin' of an epidemic am permitted," replied the parson.

"But," objected Aunt Sally, "den huccum de good folkses gets removed 'longside de bad ones?"

"Not a trace of embarrassment was evinced by the rev'ren'." "De good ones is summoned fo' witness," he explained. "De Lawd aims to give every man a fair trial."—American Legion Weekly.

THE EMPTY ROOM

By JANE GORDON

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ELAINE sat and listened to her father's voice—low, methodical and pleasing. But it was not a pleasing voice to the young woman, who knew its underlying coldness.

"It would be," her father was saying, "the best possible arrangement. Love, in marriage, is a hectic, unsatisfactory basis. Affection, born of respect and mutual appreciation means content and future peace. You, Richard, the son of my dear departed friend, are all that I could desire as life companion and protector—which means a great deal—to my daughter."

The grave faced man, sitting opposite Elaine, nodded his head in agreement. "I shall be happy in carrying out my father's wish in this matter, and bringing to you satisfaction. Also, I shall make it my life purpose to protect your daughter most tenderly. The money left by my father, on this condition, will help in that pleasant duty."

This favorite of her father's was looked up to, she knew, both in the world of business and among the few friends with whom she was privileged to mingle socially. She had not become well acquainted with Richard Strong; her impression of his personality was merely that of a courteous, serious young man, not so young either, as the heroes of fiction, which charmed her, in the standard books.

Dora Chalmers, when she heard of the engagement, laughed impishly at Elaine. "Richard Strong," she said, "has never looked at a woman since in his youth, a gay actress captured his fancy. Richard, it is said, did not wish to trust his future happiness to so faithless a creature—and avoided young women thereafter. In your case Elaine, my dear, I suppose he decided that his future will be safe. That your family name and your approved upbringing will do him honor. Have you discovered, may I ask, any indication of the heart, in the affair?"

Elaine had discovered no indication of heart interest of any kind—she was content, as the strange unemotional days of her married life passed in pleasant duties, that Richard's heart remained undiscovered country. He was away much of the time, solicitous always of her comfort and entertainment during his absences. Sometimes across the breakfast table—or at evening over the reading table, she would look up suddenly to find his grave, speculative gaze upon her. Unlike the quizzical gaze of her father in days past, her husband's gaze would end in a smile. Elaine grew to like that smile. It left one with a pleasing sense of satisfaction. She was very quiet in her place, because quiet had grown a safe habit, with her father's changing moods.

Sometimes when Richard Strong was engaged with his figuring she would stealthily regard him. He had a fine, strong chin and kindly gray eyes. An often Elaine wondered about that gay little actress, whom Richard had not dared to love. And once, when she gained a brief courage to question concerning the matter, Richard had appeared, for a moment, to fall to recall the charming creature; then he had laughed—it was seldom that Elaine heard the delight of his laughter—and he said: "Yes, I remember; Maisie was a clever little creature, but as for any serious feeling on my part regarding her—"

Elaine went one day for a visit to Dora Chalmers. Dora lived some distance away, and it was agreed that Richard's wife should remain a day or two. "The change will do you good," he said heartily.

Strangely enough, Elaine wished that he might have demurred, even as curtly as her father would have done. Richard came home whistling; he had formed a new habit of whistling cheerily as he went about his home. The maid served, as satisfactorily as though Elaine were there, his evening meal. And afterward, as usual, he read the papers. He had intended to visit the club, but there was no eagerness in his desire. Breakfast was daintily served the following morning; again Richard read his papers. But some way, Elaine, unobtrusive always, was still a great loss, in her absence. Idly Richard went up the stair. The door of Elaine's room was open, and he walked inside. The vase where she left it, with the roses still fresh—curtains draped across shining windows—the sunshine streaming in—and silence. What a silence! Near the dressing table she had dropped a rose-colored handkerchief; Richard stooped to pick it up. And beside the grass-woven work basket was a bit of soft mending.

In new and aching loneliness Richard sank into a chintz-covered chair. How empty the little room—how desolately empty the big echoing house—how hopelessly empty his own heart. He might call her back, yet if there were no joy in her coming, if duty alone, pleasing filial duty perhaps, but not happiness, was in her coming to him, what profit his call?

He had never spoken love to her; he had not believed in love. The empty room had taught him. Not realizing, he rested caressing his cheek against the handkerchief that Elaine had dropped.

Then—she was before him—the wonder of her gaze turned to smiling. "Oh, Richard," she said, "I had to come back; I missed you so."

Community Building

WORK FOR FIRE PREVENTION

Enormous Annual Loss Can Be Eliminated by the Exercise of Small Amount of Care.

The art of fire prevention is largely a matter of good housekeeping.

According to the Underwriters' Laboratories of Chicago, 75 per cent of all fires occur in the home. There is one fire every minute of the day and night in the United States. Last year fire destroyed property worth \$500,000,000, and there were 15,000 lives lost.

Ignorance and carelessness are the main causes of most fires, it is pointed out by the Underwriters' Laboratories. Simple precautions that should be taken to reduce the number of fires are:

Do not allow rubbish to accumulate in attics, closets and odd corners. Be careful where you keep oil and oily or greasy rags. Place ashes in metal containers. Use fireproof roofing on houses. Have chimneys inspected and kept free from soot. Avoid use of gas connections with rubber tubing, and exercise care in use of electrical devices.

Due to the increasing use of soft coal large numbers of shingle roof and defective flue fires are being reported from all parts of the country. Then, too, the accumulation of soot on heating surfaces reduces the value of the fuel, and frequently clogs the flues and starts fires.

TREES THE REAL BEAUTIFIER

Their Presence or Absence Makes All the Difference to the Appearance of City's Streets.

No other feature does as much to give the home a well-dressed appearance as the presence of trees. Whether it be the stately mansion, with its broad sweep of spacious lawn, or the modest residence on the 40-foot lot, the graceful foliage of trees or shrubs is necessary to produce the homelike charms. If there is room for many trees, this room should be used.

Let it be remembered that in beautifying the home with trees the outlay is to be regarded as an investment, pure and simple; an investment in beauty, in health, in comfort and, finally, in cash value. Any one of these would make the investment worth while.

This principle applies to communities as well as to the individual homes. The visitor to town or city gains his first and most lasting impression from the presence or absence of shade trees. The community with streets bare and bleak and shadeless is dismissed as an undesirable place in which to live. Shaded streets and tree-clad lawns have a charm which often proves the deciding factor in influencing the home seeker in his choice of a place of residence.—"Trees Are Good Citizens," by C. L. Pack.

Avoiding Plague of Rats.

The bad results of carelessness in leaving breaks in the basement walls of a building originally intended to be rat proof are shown in a case recently reported to the biological survey of the United States Department of Agriculture. In the course of a rat campaign in Portland, Ore., in which the rodent-control men from the department were backed by the city bureau of health and the chamber of commerce, a building with unrepared breaks of this sort was visited. The owner was advised to clean up all the rubbish in his basement, repair the breaks in the cement wall, use barium carbonate on Hamburg steak to poison the rats, and also to set some traps. A few days later it was learned that in removing the trash three rat nests were uncovered, one of which contained fifteen young. Thirty-six adult rats were found dead the morning after the poison was spread.

Town Forests a Blessing.

The memorial town forest is one of the greatest blessings that can come to any New England community. No town is too poor to have its forest park, donated by public-spirited citizens and developing into a source of direct profit to the town, observes the New England Homestead. Much of the local tax can be paid out of the revenue from the town's memorial forest, as the generations go on. Many a farmer will gladly donate to the town waste land or sprout land that may be worse than useless to him but joined with other tracts can be transformed into a good thing for the community. Other farmers and citizens will give more valuable land, or standing wood, or cash with which to help add to the town forest. A map of it, with names of donors or memorialists, printed in the town report, will add to the public interest.

The Flower Beds.

Use discretion in laying out your beds and in selecting the plants. Keep the flowers along the borders. Don't clutter up a beautiful expanse of soft bluegrass lawn with round or square beds.

Select the flower seed so that you will have blossoms throughout the summer. There are flowers that are constant bloomers and you can select the others so that one kind will follow another. Of course, the flower beds should be used in connection with shrubs.—Farm Life.